

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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HAWAIIAN STATEHOOD

Hawaii's official admission into the Union August 21 involves some staggering of office holder's terms and meeting certain problems of finance.

The first Governor of the new state, William F. Quinn, and the first Lieutenant Governor, James Kealoha, will hold office until December 3, 1962 -- about a year short of the four years provided for later terms. To provide rotation in the Senate, half of the twenty-four elected Senators will serve until November 6, 1962. The other twelve will hold office until November 3, 1964. Thereafter all Senators will be elected for four years.

One financial problem, not as yet worked out, is that the first state legislature must ratify and confirm the territory's general obligation debt of \$177 million, but the ceiling on bonded indebtedness the state may incur is set by its constitution at \$60 million. The ceiling can be raised by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature to as much as 15 per cent of the total assessed valuation for tax purposes. The 1959 valuation is more than \$1.1 billion. Also unanswered is a question as to whether \$50 million in territorial highway bonds pledged against vehicle fuel revenues must be considered part of the state's legal debt or whether they can be considered as revenue bonds that are obligations of the issuing agency, as was true under territorial law. The State Supreme Court may be asked to settle the issue.

REAPPORTIONMENT

Florida Constitutional Amendment -- The Florida legislature has submitted to the voters a reapportionment plan enlarging the Senate from thirty-eight to forty-four and the House of Representatives from 95 to 103. The plan will be voted on November 3. It

provides for two additional Senators from the western part of the state and four from the southern part. The additional Representatives would be two from Dade County (Miami) and one each from six other populous counties.

Minnesota Redistricting -- A special session of the Minnesota legislature which met April 25 to July 1 has approved a measure providing for legislative redistricting and reapportionment. The new districts will become effective with the 1962 elections. Each district will have one Senator and two Representatives, and the redistricting will be based on a population-only basis. At the special session the legislature also approved a constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters. It provides that, regardless of population, the five counties adjacent to and including the county (Ramsey) where the state capitol is located shall have only 35 per cent of the membership of the Senate.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

The Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization has reported that thirty-three states had enacted continuity of government legislation as of September 1, 1959. The five most recent enactments were by Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania. Legislation has been approved by both houses in Wisconsin and awaits action by the Governor.

The continuity of government legislative program consists of a proposed constitutional amendment and four acts. The program has been recommended by OCDM and the Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation of the Council of State Governments. The constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature to provide for lines of succession and such other measures as may be necessary to insure post-attack continuance of civil government. The four acts cover the following objectives: succession of the Chief Executive and other

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executive officials, succession of legislative, judicial and local government officials, and the relocation of state and local governments.

TAXES

States Tax Revenue Up 6 Per Cent -- The United States Bureau of the Census reports that tax revenue for the 1959 fiscal year which ended June 30 for forty-nine state governments totaled \$15.8 billion. This was up 6 per cent from revenue collected in 1958 -- \$14.9 billion -- and indicated a doubling of state tax revenue since 1950.

The greatest percentage increases in 1959 revenues over 1958 include a 15.2 per cent increase in individual state income tax revenue, a 10.3 per cent rise in tobacco products taxes collected and a 5.9 increase in property tax receipts. The only decrease was a 3.8 per cent drop in corporation income tax returns. The Census Bureau reports that all states except three had higher tax yields in fiscal 1959 than 1958. Increases of 15 per cent or more were reported for six states.

Income Tax Referendum -- Proposed increases in Oregon's income tax voted by the 1959 legislature were prevented from going into effect early in August by the filing of a citizens' petition with the Secretary of State, placing the measure on the general election ballot in November, 1960. The referendum has the effect of suspending the tax increase unless and until the people approve it.

The increase was designed to raise more than \$10 million in new revenues during the 1959-61 biennium by eliminating the federal tax deduction in computing state income taxes, while lowering the minimum and maximum rates.

Pennsylvania Increases Sales Tax -- The Pennsylvania legislature has increased the sales and use tax rate from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent, effective August 20. The rate had been increased in April from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. At the time of the August raise the legislature broadened the tax base to include sales of bottled soft drinks, alcohol-

ic beverages and charges for dry cleaning and laundering.

Correction -- The August issue of *State Government News*, in reporting on withholding laws in the states, recorded enactment of a North Carolina measure requiring corporations to file declarations of estimated tax when income less credits can reasonably be expected to exceed \$10,000. The provision, in fact, requires corporations to file declarations of estimated tax if their income tax, reduced by credits against the tax, can reasonably be expected to exceed \$100,000.

EDUCATION

Training and Research -- The annual meeting of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education was held at Medford, Oregon, August 8-10. Participants at the meeting heard a report of a western regional training and research program in the field of mental retardation that has been worked out with the cooperation of California state officials. The program will offer in-service training for physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists and other personnel employed in western facilities for the mentally retarded. It will be conducted at Pacific State Hospital, Spadra, California, for periods of from six months to a year and will accommodate one person without cost from each of the thirteen western states served by WICHE. Another highlight of the annual meeting was a report on the student exchange program. Inaugurated in 1953 with 100 students participating, the program in the 1958-59 academic year involved 241 students taking courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine at out-of-state institutions. In the coming academic year approximately 300 students will be participating.

California School Expenditures -- California public schools spent a record \$1.1 billion for operations during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1958 -- an increase of more than \$164.5 million over the previous year. An annual report on school districts published by the State Controller's office shows that it cost \$1.96 per day to educate an elementary school child, \$3.02 for each high school pupil and \$3.31 for each in junior college. The amount spent by the school districts exceeded the total budgets of California's 351 cities and almost equaled the cost of running the state's fifty-eight county governments.

About two-thirds of the education expenditures went for instructional costs. Salaries of teachers and other certified personnel accounted for almost 60 per cent of all costs -- nearly \$710 million. Another 3 per cent went for salaries to non-certified personnel and almost 4 per cent for other instructional costs. A little more than half the public school money

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came from district taxes -- 52.3 per cent. Other sources were apportionment of State funds, 43.2 per cent; federal subventions, 1.8 per cent; and miscellaneous sources, 2.7 per cent.

HEALTH, WELFARE

Health Statistics -- The Southern Regional Education Board recently sponsored a meeting of statisticians and mental health officials to discuss methods of improving the reporting of mental health statistics. Participants included officials from sixteen southern states and the National Institute of Mental Health. Purpose of the conference was to seek means of achieving uniformity of terms and figures so that reports of one state may be compared with another's. Presently the reported cost of mental patient care varies with almost every state, since statutory definitions of state budgets differ. Participants discussed one method of unifying reporting procedures -- the Model Reporting Area, a cooperative effort among twenty-one states and the National Institute of Mental Health for reporting of mental health data. Seven southern states are among those co-operating in the program.

Student Eye Tests -- A new Kansas law, effective June 30, provides for vision testing of all elementary and high school students in the state. The measure provides that school boards or boards of education provide basic vision screening without charge to every student not less than once every two years. The act was adopted on recommendations by the Kansas Coordinating Council for the Blind and the Kansas Legislative Council.

Child Welfare -- A new Massachusetts law requires agencies offering group care for foster children to meet safety standards set by the State Department of Public Safety. The department was given specific powers and directed to make inspections and to certify the buildings involved as safe and adequate for the care of foster children under 16 years old. The State Department of Public Welfare previously has required foster agencies to show certificate of approval from the Public Safety Department, but inspections have largely been made only at an agency's request. More than fifty buildings are involved in the new procedure, which places foster care agencies under the same inspection requirements as those governing hospitals, sanatoriums, convalescent homes, private infirmaries and rest homes.

Welfare Training -- The Utah Department of Public Welfare recently underwrote the cost of one week of specialized training at the University of Utah for fifty-one welfare workers. Training was provided in supervision, case work in public assistance and

social work during long term illnesses of welfare recipients. Welfare workers chosen for the specialized training were selected from the department's staff and from the staffs of county welfare departments.

Temporary Relief Extended -- The Wisconsin legislature has passed a measure extending from twenty to thirty days the period for which temporary welfare relief is available to nonresidents. The measure also forbids the state to transport a nonresident back to another state unless that state is willing to accept him and grant him relief. Presently the Wisconsin residence requirement for general relief is one year, but a bill is pending in the legislature which would repeal this provision. The legislature will reconvene its recessed regular session in November.

MENTAL RETARDATION

An Office of Mental Retardation has been established in the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene. Purpose of the new agency is the coordination and development of all state services for the mentally retarded. Special emphasis will be placed on improvement of patient care in state institutions, development of new programs designed to improve training activities and encouragement of placement of suitable patients in communities rather than in institutions. (See also "Training and Research" under "EDUCATION," page 2.)

HIGHWAYS

Highway Study Committees -- Highway study committees have been created or continued by twelve state legislatures during their 1959 sessions.

Florida created a twelve member Interim Committee on Public Roads and Highways to make a thorough study of the cost and administration of public roads. Particular stress in the study will be upon contract awards, maintenance and locations. In Indiana a six member Highway Study Committee was established to survey the laws, rules and regulations governing highway construction. The Iowa legislature passed a resolution creating an eleven member committee to make a complete fiscal, administrative and engineering survey of the state highway and street systems.

A resolution of the Kansas legislature directs the Legislative Council to study all statutes pertaining to roads and the duties of the county engineer. In Maine the Legislative Research Committee was authorized to study procedures in determining damages caused by the taking of land for highway purposes.

The Missouri legislature established a joint ten member committee to study the needs and financing of city and county streets and rural roads not now in the state highway system. In Nebraska the Legislative Council was authorized to appoint a five member committee to study the procedures of the Depart-

ment of Roads and the State Highway Commission. Oregon's legislature created a seven member interim committee to study property acquisition for highways, control of access, parks and recreational areas, size and weight laws, motor vehicle taxation and reciprocity.

The South Dakota legislature authorized the Legislative Research Council and the State Highway Department to make a highway system classification study, utilizing any impartial consulting organization experienced in the field of highway planning. The Tennessee State Planning Commission was directed to study zoning to protect points of access to the Interstate System. A Joint Fact Finding Committee on Highways, Streets and Bridges in Washington was continued until April 1, 1961. The Wisconsin Legislative Council was directed to continue a current study of highway problems under the supervision of an eleven member highway advisory committee.

Minimum Speed Laws -- The Maine Speed Regulation Board has ordered pilot studies involving the posting of minimum speeds on two highways in the state. Posting of minimum speeds was authorized by the 1959 legislature. Previous law allowed policemen to ask drivers to speed up or get off the road if they were impeding traffic, but no prosecution could take place unless the driver ignored the request.

LABOR

The Massachusetts legislature has approved a bill to give strikers unemployment compensation benefits after a strike has run six weeks. In other action affecting labor the legislature increased workmen's compensation benefits from \$40 to \$45 a week. The state minimum wage requirement was raised from 90 cents to \$1. Under this measure no minimum wage board can recommend less than \$1 in any occupation except for learners, apprentices and service workers who receive gratuities. Their rate will be increased from 65 to 70 cents an hour. The law prescribes \$30 a week as a minimum for janitors and caretakers of residential property.

THE COURTS

Alaska Court Appointments -- The nucleus of Alaska's judicial system has been established with Governor William A. Egan's announcement of appointments to the new state's three man Supreme Court.

Buell A. Nesbett, a lawyer in private practice at Anchorage, was named Chief Justice. Associate Justices are the present United States District Judge, Walter H. Hodge, of Nome and John H. Dimond, member of a Juneau law firm.

The appointments were made by Governor Egan from a list of nominees submitted by Alaska's Judicial Council. The council was established by the state constitution as a permanent body to recommend candidates for

appointment to the Supreme and Superior Courts, to conduct studies for improvement of the administration of justice, and to make reports and recommendations to the Supreme Court and the legislature at intervals of not more than two years. Three members of the council must be lawyers appointed by the State Bar Association, and another three laymen appointed by the Governor. The Chief Justice becomes ex officio the seventh member and Chairman of the council.

Court Reorganization -- The 1959 Illinois legislature established the Office of Court Administrator under the supervision of the State Supreme Court and made significant changes in the operation of the justice of the peace and police magistrate system throughout the state.

Primary function of the Court Administrator will be to improve the efficiency of business methods of the judicial system. The bill setting up his office also allows the Supreme Court to transfer judges temporarily from one area to another when dockets are overcrowded.

Other changes provide that justices of the peace be county rather than township officers. Their compensation will be by salary rather than on a fee basis, and will be set by the county board within limits defined by statute. The justices will be elected by justice districts, the number per district depending on population but not to exceed five. In Cook County outside Chicago each township will constitute a justice district. In Chicago the Municipal Court for more than half a century has taken the place of the justice system. Downstate counties are to be divided by their county boards into three, four or five justice districts. The reorganization will become fully effective with the election of justices of the peace and constables in 1961.

Juvenile Courts -- A recent Nebraska measure provides for establishment by local option of juvenile courts in the state's two largest counties. The bill implements a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in November, 1958. If a juvenile court is established the judge will be elected, receive the pay of a District Court judge -- \$11,000 -- and have authority to appoint his own staff. Cost of the court will be paid by the county, and the court may be abolished by local option.

Court Committee -- The New Hampshire Supreme Court has appointed a committee of lawyers to consider the possibility of expediting, simplifying and reducing the cost of cases which come before it. The Supreme Court's Justices are concerned about costs and delay in transfer of cases from lower courts to it. From six months to two years are now required to get an appealed Superior Court case ready for arguments before the high court.

Seminar for State Judges -- The University of Washington Law School with the assistance of the State Supreme Court recently sponsored a two day seminar for judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts. Present were about two-thirds of all trial and appellate court judges of the state. The seminar was devoted to study of the application of newly adopted Washington rules of pleading, practice and procedure which will become effective in January, 1960.

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices was held in Miami Beach, Florida, August 18-23.

The Conference devoted special attention to the work of appellate courts. Three papers were presented on this topic and conference members participated in group workshops on it.

At another session participants discussed allocation of jurisdiction between federal and state courts. The Conference took note of a recent suggestion by Chief Justice Earl Warren that the American Law Institute undertake a comprehensive study of this subject. By resolution the Conference offered its assistance in any such study and expressed its deep interest in working with other groups concerned with attempts to develop new bases for dividing jurisdiction.

Additional subjects discussed included judicial conferences, water law, habeas corpus and the maintenance of an independent judiciary in case of nuclear attack.

The Conference approved a resolution continuing and enlarging its Committee on the Improvement of the Administration of Justice. The committee was asked to undertake a series of studies on the basis of which the Conference may develop recommendations for consideration by the states. Another resolution, calling attention to problems in the field of habeas corpus, emphasized the need for congressional action to prevent abuse of habeas corpus writs. A further resolution urged state legislatures to consider legislation to assure continuity of government in case of nuclear attack.

In addition to speeches and discussion by Conference members, several guest speakers addressed the meeting. They included Professors Karl N. Llewellyn and Philip B. Kurland, both of the University of Chicago Law School; President Robert M. Strozier of Florida State University; Hubert D. Bennett, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia; Perry W. Morton, Assistant Attorney General of the United States; Judge Richard Hartshorne of the United States District Court in New Jersey; and Robert Y. Phillips of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization.

Officers elected by the Conference for the coming year are: Chairman, Chief Justice Harvey McGehee, Mississippi; First Vice Chairman, Chief Justice Frank R. Kenison,

New Hampshire; Second Vice Chairman, Chief Justice John E. Martin, Wisconsin; other Executive Council members, Chief Justice J. Allan Crockett, Utah; Chief Justice John B. Fournet, Louisiana; Chief Justice Morris C. Montgomery, Kentucky; Chief Justice Robert B. Simmons, Nebraska; and Chief Justice Raymond S. Wilkins, Massachusetts.

COURT ADMINISTRATORS MEET

The National Conference of Court Administrative Officers held its Fifth Annual Meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, concurrently with the meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices. Administrative officers from twenty jurisdictions attended.

Participants reported on recent developments in judicial systems. Several reports emphasized plans and accomplishments in judicial reorganization. One discussed the preparation of annual reports of administrative offices, including their composition, costs and scope of distribution. A session was devoted to judicial reorganization in New York. Another concerned court records, their management, preservation and disposal.

The Conference voted to re-establish a Committee on the Model Court Administrator Act to develop specific proposals for amendments to the act. It adopted a resolution concerning traffic courts, reaffirming resolutions on this subject adopted previously by the Conference of Chief Justices and noting proposals by the Traffic Court Program of the American Bar Association.

Frederick W. Invernizzi, Director of Maryland's Administrative Office of the Courts, was elected Chairman of the Conference and Robert A. Coogan, Administrative Clerk of the Judicial Department of Rhode Island, Vice Chairman. Other members elected to the executive committee were Albert C. Bise, Court Administrator of Washington; Clarence A. Kading, Judicial Department Statistician, Iowa; and Lucas F. Serbia Cordova, Administrative Director of the Office of Court Administration, Puerto Rico.

CORRECTIONS

Probation in Utah -- Increased use of probation as part of a modernized corrections system has reduced the inmate population of Utah State Prison from 618 in 1957 to 533 at present, according to Ernest D. Wright, Executive Director of the State Board of Corrections. Commitments have been increasing in Utah at the rate of 1.2 inmates a month for the past three years, but the increase has been more than offset by greater use of probation and parole. The 1957 case load of the Probation and Parole Department was 839 as against 1,036 now.

Mr. Wright also pointed out that parole and probation greatly reduce the financial burden on society. The cost of supervising an individual outside prison is about \$120 a year. The cost will be higher as the state

moves to reduce the case loads of department employees, currently more than double the standard recommended by the National Probation and Parole Association. But the cost of maintaining a prison inmate runs about \$1,640 a year if capital investment in facilities is included -- \$1,460 if this is excluded.

Mr. Wright reported that from 18 to 22 per cent of probationers and about 49 per cent of parolees fail to make good. But he noted that an even larger per cent of prisoners who serve out their full terms before returning to society are recommitted to prison. Since all persons convicted of crime other than those given life terms eventually return to society, the parole and probation system, he pointed out, merely speeds up the process on a selective basis and provides supervision for the initial period of readjustment.

Parole-Probation Compact -- Wyoming has ratified the Out-of-State Incarceration Amendment to the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Parolees and Probationers. The compact was recently ratified by the Virgin Islands, bringing the total of party jurisdictions to fifty-two.

RECIPROCAL SUPPORT

Arkansas, Idaho, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin have adopted the 1958 draft of the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act. The 1958 draft permits the person to whom the support is owed and who has already secured a support order in his own state to register it and have it enforced in the state of the person who owes support.

VARIED STATE STUDIES

Four Colorado Studies -- Colorado has announced plans for four major studies -- three to be confined to state matters and the fourth dealing with the Upper Colorado River Basin.

A \$90,000, thirteen month survey of the state's business machine operations was approved, and a private management consultant firm has been engaged to make the study. Its purpose is to determine whether the state should change from a card machine system to a magnetic tape computer system. The study also will make recommendations on improvement of lines of authority, budget control methods and staff organization in the State Revenue Department and the Controller's Office, with the aim of attaining a better, more complete system of keeping records and accounts.

Two other studies will gather information to help encourage new industry to locate in Colorado. One will concern location factors of industries, to determine those to which Colorado offers natural advantages for headquarters or branch offices. A related study will gather basic economic and resource information on local communities to assist their orderly and continued development.

The fourth study will be a two year survey of the effect of weather on the flow of the Upper Colorado River. The immediate purpose is to determine the rate at which the river system can fill Glen Canyon Reservoir in northern Arizona, a major unit of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project now under construction. Colorado and other Upper Basin states want the canyon filled as rapidly as possible after the dam's completion so that power revenues may be obtained to finance participating irrigation projects. California, a downstream state, wants the reservoir filled slowly in order to guarantee the Lower Basin states their regular allotment of water.

The Upper Basin states of Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah are expected to contribute to the cost of the study, which will eventually total at least \$80,000.

Tennessee Biennial Study Program -- The Tennessee Legislative Council recently began four of fourteen studies assigned to it for the 1959-61 biennium. The four under way deal with library services, boating laws, a state forestry school and livestock sales records. Other assignments include billboard regulation, problems of the aged and chronically ill, municipal revenues and the state penal system.

NEW GOVERNMENT RESEARCH BUREAU

The Trustees for State Colleges of Rhode Island have authorized establishment of a governmental research bureau at the University of Rhode Island. The new bureau will conduct training courses for government employees and study state and municipal problems. Its research activities will be confined to fact finding, analysis and interpretation.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Fiscal Review Agency Established -- The Pennsylvania legislature recently passed a bill establishing a Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. The bill was signed into law by Governor David L. Lawrence August 4, and will become effective the day after the 1959 session adjourns. The committee will comprise the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders of both houses and three additional members from each house. It will have power to study revenues and expenditures and may examine records of all state funds and appropriations to ascertain whether or not they are being used for the purposes provided by the legislature. The committee is authorized to appoint a Legislative Analyst to assist it and to undertake continuous review of state expenditures and revenue, analyze the budget and make recommendations concerning the state's financial position.

ADMINISTRATION

Economy and Reorganization Report -- A Governor's Commission on Economy and Reorganization in Georgia has published an interim report to the Governor and legislature. Included are two sets of recommendations suggesting improvements in state budgeting and records management. Recommendations of various committees of the commission also are given. The commission, established by this year's legislature, will function through December 31, 1959. It plans to make additional reports and recommendations up to that time.

Reports in preparation include studies on bank deposit interest, the state insurance program, bonding of officials and employees, and travel expense policies.

In recommendations dealing with state budgeting the commission has proposed: (1) that the State Finance Commission be given a more active role in preparation of the budget plan; (2) that the statutes be revised to provide for mandatory meetings of the Finance Commission each quarter; (3) that staff assistance utilized by the Governor in preparation of the budget be made available to the Finance Commission; and (4) that department heads and chairmen and members of boards and commissions be privileged to appear before the Finance Commission to explain or support their budget estimates. Another recommendation proposes six additional legislative members for the Finance Commission.

Recommendations on records management include one to amend a law relating to the destruction of obsolete records. The change would require concurrence of the Secretary of State before destruction of records is recommended to the Governor. Establishment of a training program for prospective records management officers and an inter-agency Records Management Council also were recommended.

Committees of the commission have been set up to study personnel administration, health and welfare, and structural reorganization of the state government. In addition, staff consultants have been engaged for studies of education, conservation and agriculture.

New Wisconsin Department -- The 1959 Wisconsin legislature created a new Department of Administration to take over all house-keeping functions of state government. It is also charged with reviewing the whole state government structure for the Governor and legislature. Joe E. Nusbaum has been appointed by Governor Gaylord A. Nelson to head the new department.

Functions assigned to the department include personnel, purchasing, engineering, finance, management analysis and general services. The department is drafting a new proposed budget for 1960-61 to be submitted

to the Governor and the legislature in November, when the 1959 recessed regular legislative session is to reconvene.

The legislature is represented in the department by a new Government Operations Board. The board will replace the State Emergency Board in making emergency appropriations not covered in the budget. It also will serve as a permanent overseer on state administration, to enable the legislature to find out what changes are needed in state government and to see that the legislature's intent is carried out in daily practice.

PERSONNEL

Government-Employee Relations -- During legislative sessions of 1959 several states adopted laws affecting relations between governments and their employees. The Alaska legislature authorized state and municipal governments to enter into labor-management agreements, including union contracts, with their employees. A new California law permits firemen to join unions and present grievances, but bans strikes or recognition of picket lines while on duty. In Florida the legislature enacted a measure prohibiting state, county and municipal employees from striking, asserting the right to strike or belonging to organizations which claim that right. North Carolina legislation forbids policemen and firemen to belong to labor unions. The Wisconsin legislature adopted a bill permitting city, village and county employees to join unions and bargain collectively with their employers. An amendment provides that the State Employment Relations Board shall not mediate disputes between public employees and employers.

Merit Systems -- An executive order of Governor Albert B. Chandler of Kentucky has placed 15,000 state employees under a merit system.

The Ohio legislature has approved a measure reclassifying state employees and upgrading their wages and salaries at a cost of \$19.5 million for the current biennium. Another Ohio act created a new Department of State Personnel with a Director and a three-member Personnel Board of Review.

A new Oklahoma law provides for the state's first comprehensive merit system for state employees. It calls for creation of a new seven-member State Personnel Board which will select a Personnel Director. The board will set up classification plans and conduct examinations to determine qualifications of candidates for positions.

MIDWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

More than 160 legislators and state administrative officials from twelve states attended the Midwestern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments August

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30 through September 2 in Kansas City, Missouri. Hosts for the meeting were the Kansas and Missouri Commissions on Interstate Cooperation.

State regulation of retirement funds, revenue problems, investment of state funds and mental health were among topics discussed by the participants. In a series of simultaneous discussion sessions, legislators, administrative officials and guests addressed groups of conference delegates on problems in agriculture, migratory labor, water resources and higher education.

Former President Harry S. Truman addressed the conference at the opening business session and was host for an afternoon tour of the Truman Library at Independence, Missouri. In his remarks Mr. Truman stressed the importance of greater cooperation between all levels of government.

At a State Dinner Governor James T. Blair, Jr., of Missouri and Governor George Docking of Kansas commented on the value of interstate meetings as a means of solving common problems. Robert F. Kennedy, Chief Counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Labor-Management Relations, spoke of the committee's work and its investigations of improper conduct by labor unions and management.

Among resolutions adopted, the conference urged Congress to enact legislation to alleviate confusion caused by federal court decisions pre-empting to the federal government certain fields of legislation previously handled by the states. In a resolution regarding licensing of interstate commercial vehicles, the conference requested the Council of State Governments to assist authorities in encouraging adoption of uniform laws and regulations governing state-to-state movement of persons and goods by motor vehicle. A Committee on Agriculture Problems was established to promote cooperation among the midwestern states in the field of agriculture.

BUDGET OFFICERS MEET

The Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Budget Officers was held in New York City August 17-20. Twenty-nine states were represented by more than seventy budget officials present.

Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York was the speaker at the annual State Dinner. Addressing the conference on other occasions were Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York City; Robert Moses, Chairman, New York State Council of Parks; Don Paarlberg, Special Assistant to the President of the United States; and Allen D. Manvel, Chief of the Governments Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Association adopted a resolution urging Congress to authorize appropriations for federal grant-in-aid programs two years in advance of the fiscal year in which such appropriations are to be matched and expended. It requested Congress and the federal agencies concerned with grants to re-examine rules and regulations in order to permit more state flexibility in their administration. Another resolution expressed gratification for the wealth of data available as a result of the 1957 Census of Governments and urged the Bureau of the Census to make timely and adequate preparation for the next Census of Governments, authorized for 1962.

James G. Rennie, Director of the Maryland Department of Budget and Procurement, was elected President of the Association, succeeding David S. Coltrane, Assistant Director of Administration and Budget Officer of North Carolina. Other members of the new Executive Committee include Robert L. Harkness, California, Vice President; James W. Bibb, Kansas; E. J. Boling, Tennessee; David S. Coltrane, North Carolina; Con F. Shea, Colorado; and Abram M. Vermeulin, New Jersey.

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